



Town of River Falls Spring Newsletter

Spring 2026

Notes from Town of River Falls Chair, Terry Kusilek

I hope everyone had a good 2025, other than a few cold days and some others with icy conditions and 1 large snowstorm this spring, the past winter has been pretty good for all of us. As my first year serving as Town Chair concludes, I would like to formally express my gratitude to the members of the Town Board, Plan Commission, and other committee members for their dedication and guidance. Their contributions have greatly supported me in successfully transitioning into this role and have made the past year both productive and rewarding.

The Town Board has worked quite extensively on how we report our budget and have made many revisions to the reports to make them clearer and more understandable to all in attendance at our regularly scheduled meetings. We have not finished our work on budgeting, over the next few months we still need to do more long-term planning on budget projections so we can better manage your money, this will allow us to do a better job of forecasting major known expenditures so we can keep the budget consistent from year to year.

In 2025 the Town entered into 2 long-term agreements with the City of River Falls, the 1st was a 20-year agreement with the City for Fire Protection Services. The contract is for calendar years 2027 through the end of 2046. This agreement was with the Rural Fire Association which we are a member of. There are 5 Towns that signed this agreement with the City of River Falls, the Towns are Clifton, Kinnickinnic, Pleasant Valley, River Falls and the Town of Troy. In this agreement the Towns agreed to share in the cost of the Fire Hall remodel and new construction. The demolition on part of the old Facility started in late February.

The 2nd agreement was a 5-year contract for Ambulance Services; this agreement is for the calendar years 2026- 2030. The Ambulance contract was an individual contract between each Town and the City, not a joint agreement as the Fire Contract was. There are auto renewal extensions built into the Ambulance contract beyond 2030 if Town and the City choose to use that option.

These 2 contracts will give the Town of River Falls residents stability for emergency services without having to renegotiate terms every few years.

If you have any questions or concerns in the Town, please reach out to me, my contact info is cell 715-821-4049 or e mail torf.chair@gmail.com Thank You, Terry Kusilek



While popular, the “Free Area” at the Recycling Center often generates items that are in poor condition, do not work, are broken or are left by those who want to avoid paying a fee for disposal. Many of the items in the free area end up in the trash or placed in the electronics shed for disposal and incur a cost for all Town taxpayers. Please help reduce the costs of disposal by asking recycling center staff what items can be left in the free area.

Introducing Badger Books!

If you voted at the April 7 spring election, you noticed exciting changes to the voting process at the town hall. In 2025, the Board approved the purchase of the Badger Books electronic poll book system. Badger Books is used to check in voters, process Election Day Registrations and record absentee participation. Badger Books work the same as the paper poll books but are designed to streamline the voting process and make the voting experience more efficient. Voters still present photo ID and state their name and address at the poll book table. Voters will no longer need to stand in line by alphabet, instead may go to the next available poll book which should minimize wait time on Election Day. The Election Inspectors will find the voter in the Badger book just as they would have in the paper poll book. Voters are still required to sign the poll book; with Badger Books the voter will sign the screen using their finger or a stylus.

The implementation of Badger Books does not change how you vote or how votes are tabulated. You will be issued a paper ballot to cast your vote, and the ballot will be fed into the tabulator the same as you have been doing.

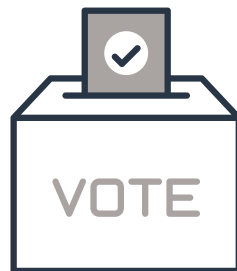
Badger Books are NOT connected to the internet, are NOT voting machines and are NOT connected to or interact with the voting equipment at the polling place. Residents with questions about the electronic poll books should please contact Town Clerk Sarah Meyer, 715-629-8240 or clerk@riverfallstown.com



2026 Spring Election Results

On April 7, 2026, there were 851 voters (~52.4%) that voted in the Town of River Falls. The following were elected:

Supervisor III: Joe Mahoney
Supervisor IV: Jerome Rodewald



Remaining 2026 election dates:
Tuesday, August 11 - Partisan Primary
Tuesday, November 3 - General Election/Gubernatorial

Absentee Ballot by Mail Requests:
www.myvote.wi.gov
In Person Absentee Voting will take place:
July 28 - August 7
October 20 - October 30

Town Contacts

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Meeting Information

Town Board Meetings: 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00pm
Plan Commission: 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:00pm
Roads Committee: 2nd Thursdays at 6:30pm
Parks Committee: 4th Thursdays at 6:30pm
Cemetery Committee: 3rd Thursday as needed
Recycling Committee: 1st Thursday at 6:30pm

WATCH OUR FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE FOR UPDATED MEETING INFORMATION

Road Right of Way

The Town of River Falls follows Wisconsin State Statute when it comes to road right of ways. State Statute 82.18 states that: Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, highways laid out under this chapter shall be laid out at least 66 feet wide unless, in the town board's discretion, that width is impractical. If the town board determines that a 66-foot width is impractical, the width shall be determined by the town board but shall be at least 49.5 feet in width. When no width is specified in the highway order, the highway shall be 66 feet wide.

Permits Required

Here is your reminder that you need permits for:

Fire/Burning

2026 burn permits are available at the Town Recycling Center during center hours—Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. year-round. From May through September, the recycling center is also open on Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. Permits are also available from the Town Board and staff members by appointment.

Business

All businesses operating in the Town of River Falls, homebased or not are required to obtain a permit. Contact Don Rodewald, Zoning Administrator for more information. zoning@riverfallstown.com

Fireworks

Fireworks permits are required for shooting off large firework displays. A permit can be requested from Terry Kusilek, Town Chair at 715-821-4049. You must have your permit at least TWO business days ahead of your event in order to provide the required notification to the River Falls Fire Department. Small fireworks displays such as sparklers, caps, snakes do not need a permit.

Special Events

A permit is required for events where an entrance fee is charged or attendance is expected to be over 300 people. Applications for special event permits must be submitted to the Town Clerk at least 30 days prior to your event to be considered by the town board. The permit application can be found on the Town website.

Town Roads Update from Roads Committee Chair, Brad Mogen

Over 60% of the Town's approximately 1.5 million dollar budget goes toward maintaining our roads. This includes items such as labor, equipment, materials, tree management, etc. Over the past several years, inflationary and persistent price increases coupled with inadequate state shared revenue has created a funding gap that all Wisconsin Towns are facing. Given that the Town can't simply raise taxes to fill the void, like many cities do, we are faced with making tough choices.

For a long time, the Town planned on rebuilding one full mile of road per year. With 60 miles of road we were expecting our roads to last an unrealistic 60 years. And as costs increased—we currently budget approximately \$435,000 to rebuild a mile of road—we were forced to either delay or eliminate other projects.



To address this, the Town Board voted a few years back to abandon the idea of rebuilding one mile of road per year and adopted a plan whereby we rebuild a road section every other year and use the off year as a "maintenance year" to address some of our deferred maintenance problems. It also allows us to carry over funding for a higher quality road rebuild which extends the lifespan of the roads we work on and helps us fund other needs. It also allows us to complete larger projects in a single year. This avoids having roads torn up for extended periods of time which is inconvenient for those living on or traveling those roads. In 2024/2025 we worked on completing 4,900 feet of Saddle Club Road (850th St.) north of Highway 29 at a cost of \$373,000. 2026 is a maintenance year and will allow us to catch up on some seal coating projects, blade patching, pot hole repair, additional right of way tree work sign replacement, etc. It also includes prepping for our 2027 road project which will be extending the Saddle Club rebuild from Highway 29 for approximately 1.5 miles toward 770th St. (Charlies Lake Road) at an estimated cost of \$642,500 We will be doing all of the preliminary work this summer, e.g. culvert replacement if needed, ditch shaping, tree/fence removal, etc.

We are planning to sealcoat approximately one mile of 710th Ave. (Pleasant View Road) starting at County Road E and working east. Some of this stretch will get a double sealcoat while the rest will be single seal coated. We are also planning to seal coat portions of 945th St.(South Wasson Lane) and 850th St. (Bare Foot Lane) for a total of over 8,000 lineal feet of seal coating projects in 2026. We have two substantial tree projects planned: 820th St. (Sleepy Hollow Drive) and 810th St. (Shady Lane). Encroaching right of way trees on both of these roads create headaches after heavy snow and rainfalls.

The Town purchased a second tractor with accessories for \$160,000 and is in the process of replacing our oldest plow truck at a cost of \$315,000.

We replaced the Town shop's old oil burning furnace, that was failing frequently, with a high efficiency LP forced air furnace. Sadly, the 40 year old well and plumbing at the Town Shop gave up the ghost and also had to be replaced. Some of these expenses were planned for, but some of the unexpected costs end up coming out of our maintenance year budget..The Roads Committee is creating a long term equipment replacement schedule for an improved budget planning process.





Big Changes at the Town Recycling Center

Beginning in May 2026, the Town of River Falls Recycling Center will implement a new fee and charges schedule for non-Town residents' use of trash and recycling services. This non-resident fee increase includes all items that currently carry a charge for Town disposal—trash, electronics, appliances, bulk waste, computers, televisions, light bulbs, tires, garden and lawn equipment and miscellaneous items. With increased costs for trash disposal and recycling, the Town has adjusted pricing to avoid town resident tax support of non-town residents use of the facility. Paper, commingled waste, oil, antifreeze and metal will continue to be available for no charge to town and non-town residents.

Comingle Dumpster

All must be clean and dry, with NO food waste!

- #1 PETE: water bottles, pop bottles, fruit juice containers, oil containers
- #2 HDPE: milk jugs, bottles from shampoo, body wash, conditioner, bleach, cleaning agents
- #5 PP: Cottage cheese, sour cream containers, etc
- Glass: Any color (no window glass, table glass, ceramic glass, tempered glass)
- Aluminum: Cans, foil
- Bimetal cans: cans from soup, vegetables, fruit

Electronics

- computers - desktop, laptop, netbook, tablets, monitors, keyboards, mice, scanners
- printers, fax machines, scanners
- DVD players, VCRs, DVRs
- external hard drives
- flash drives, USBs
- televisions
- phones

Vehicle Items

- lead - acid batteries
- tires
- used oil filters
- waste oils
- antifreeze

Cardboard and Paper

Boxes must be broken down!

- corrugated cardboard & cardboard boxes
- cereal boxes
- paper
- magazines
- newspaper
- fruit and milk paper boxes
- books (hard covers must be removed)
- oatmeal boxes

Appliances

- air conditioners
- boilers
- washers/dryers
- dehumidifiers
- dishwashers
- freezers/fridges
- microwaves
- ovens
- water heaters

We DO NOT accept

- yard materials: grass clippings, debris and brush, leaves
- home or hazardous chemicals
- concrete
- pavement

Recycling Center Hours:

May 1 - August 31: Wednesdays 5pm - 8pm

Saturdays 8am - 4pm

September 1 - April 30: Saturdays 8am - 4pm

<https://riverfallstown.com/recycling-center/>